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Allen-Scott Report

Confrontation In Asia

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Mr. Allen.

The build-up of U.S. combat forces in South Viet Nam to 150,000 by fall constitutes the first step in a still-secret program to seek an all-Asian settlement through a series of controlled military and political maneuvers.

This strategy, under preparation by President Johnson's principal policy-makers for months, is aimed at forcing a major military confrontation with Communist China by meeting head-on the Communists' escalation of the Viet Nam conflict.

Known as the "stick and carrot" approach, the new policy calls for:

Extension of "controlled" bombing into Red China, with destruction of Peiping's "embryonic nuclear plants" as a major objective.

Offering China a multi-billion dollar development program in exchange for an end to Peiping's aggression in Southeast Asia.

While details are still being worked out by McGeorge Bundy, the President's chief foreign policy adviser, the overall design of this controversial program is now being made known to key foreign diplomats, including the Soviet leaders.

According to a National Security Council paper being circulated in highest government quarters, Roving Ambassador Averell Harriman's mission to Moscow was to brief Russian officials on U.S. intentions to force an Asian confrontation.

What arrangement Harriman may be trying to work out with the Soviet to eliminate the danger of a nuclear-armed Communist China isn't known, although the paper indicated this subject would be discussed.

Harriman raised this explosive question in 1961, while negotiating the nuclear test ban treaty. While no public announcement was made after Harriman's return, President Kennedy ordered the preparation of "contingency plans" for what was called "the nuclear sterilization of the Chicomos." However, these plans were never implemented, and were shelved after President Kennedy's death.

The "contingency plans" have been revived by Bundy and made an integral part of the administration's new China strategy, according to White House insiders.

While execution of these plans rests with President Johnson, Jonathan Moore, special assistant to William Bundy, assistant secretary of state for the Far East is telling members of Congress, "The U. S. will not hesitate to bomb the embryonic nuclear plants if Peking sends troops into North Viet Nam."

He reports that, most important in his new strategy, "We are willing to commit more than we believe the Communists are willing to take."

Moore's legislative briefings parallel closely CIA Director Raborn's private warnings to the lawmakers that the No. 1 U.S. enemy in Southeast Asia is Communist China and not Russia, despite the latter's shipment of bombers and ground-to-air missiles to North Viet Nam.

Raborn stressed that Peiping is keeping pressure on Hanoi to step up the war in South Viet Nam, promising "volunteers" to match the growing U.S. commitment.

Intervention by the Red Chinese, both Raborn and Moore indicated, would trigger the bombing of the atomic installations, including China's gaseous-diffusion plant. This uranium-producing reactor, is near Lanchow on the Yellow River in north central China.

In his recent meeting with Ambassador Dobrynin, Secretary Rusk revealed segments of the new strategy that are known only to a handful of administration officials.

One intercepted Dobrynin message to the Kremlin quoted Rusk as saying the U.S. was ready to offer China extensive economic aid if an all-Asian settlement could be worked out.

The message also indicated the U. S. would accept the establishment of a coalition government, including members of the Communist government in South Viet Nam if this could be

worked out by political negotiation and not force.

To Dobrynin's inquiries on whether the U.S. plans to escalate the war, including bombing Soviet ground-air bases in North Viet Nam, Secretary Rusk was reported to have replied that President Johnson had decided against attack unless he missiles are used against U.S. planes.